

NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. RUDOLPH BLASIUS, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Braunschweig, Germany, September 21, 1907, in the 65th year of his age. He was born at Braunschweig, November 25, 1842, and was the eldest son of Johann Heinrich Blasius, the well-known author of the 'Fauna der Wirbelthiere Deutschlands' (1857), a leading authority on European ornithology, and Professor of Zoölogy in the Collegium Carolinum, the Technical High School of Braunschweig. Rudolf here received his preliminary education, and subsequently took his degree of M. D. at the University of Göttingen, in 1866. He entered the army as Assistant Surgeon in the war of 1866, and later, during the Franco-Prussian war, was promoted to Surgeon-Major. In 1879 he became Professor of Hygiene and Bacteriology in the Technical High School of his native city, which position he occupied till his death; and he also filled important offices in the municipal government.

He is said to have inherited a strong love for natural history pursuits from both his father and grandfather, and by the former was early trained in zoölogical research. Despite his many pressing duties later in life, he was able to continue active work in ornithology. He was for many years president of the Permanent International Ornithological Committee, and of the Deutsche Ornithologische Gesellschaft, and was one of the editors of 'Ornis.' He travelled much on the continent of Europe, being often a delegate to medical and ornithological Congresses, and thus became well acquainted with the ornithologists and the ornithological collections of the principal cities of Europe. His ornithological papers were quite numerous, relating mainly to the European ornithology; his earliest paper, published in 1862, being on the birds of Braunschweig, while his doctoral thesis (1866) was upon the structure of egg-shells. He was especially interested in bird migration, to which many of his papers relate.

He was a man of robust health until overtaken by his last illness, fond of field sports, a genial companion, and in his numerous travels made many lasting friendships.

MR. ROBERT RIDGWAY has recently started for a second visit to Costa Rica, where he expects to spend six months or more in ornithological explorations for the U. S. National Museum. As on his previous trip to that country, he will be the guest of his old friend, Sr. José C. Zeledon, who has done so much to develop the ornithology of Costa Rica. Leaving Washington January 27, Mr. Ridgway went via Tampa to Havana, where he met Mr. Zeledon, and the two proceeded to San José, arriving on the 5th of February. Two days later Mr. Ridgway wrote that he and Sr. Anastasio Alfaro, the genial and talented Director of the Museo Nacional, who accompanied him on several of his expeditions in 1905, were about to start on an excursion to Mount Turubales, on the Pacific slope, a peak

not hitherto visited by ornithologists. On later excursions they expect to visit the high grassy tableland in the central part of the country, and other little known regions.

The primary object of Mr. Ridgway's expedition is the collection of material for his 'Birds of North and Middle America,' the next volume of which will contain, among other families, the Formicariidæ, Dendrocolaptidæ, Furnariidæ, and Trochilidæ, of which a very large percentage of the Central American species occur in Costa Rica.—C. W. R.

ON February 28, C. William Beebe, Curator of Birds in the New York Zoölogical Society, and Mrs. Beebe, sailed on the steamship 'Korona' for Georgetown, British Guiana, for a trip to the headwaters of the Essequibo River, to study tropical bird life and obtain material for publication.

MR. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, Curator of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History, is visiting extreme southern Florida in quest of material for additional bird groups for the Museum, in which he has recently been promoted from Associate Curator to Curator.

A MANUAL of 'The Birds of Maine,' by Ora W. Knight, is announced for early publication. This work, which is devoted exclusively to Maine birds, will give "their relative abundance in each county," with descriptions of the different plumages of each species, and full accounts of their home life. Subscriptions, prior to April 15, 1908, will be \$3.00, and may be addressed to the author, 84 Forest Avenue, Bangor, Maine. Price, after this date, \$3.50.

AN "essay competition on comparative legislation for the protection of birds" has been inaugurated by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (London), which has issued a circular stating the regulations for the International competition for 1908. The Society's gold medal and 20 guineas are offered for the best essay or treatise on this subject. The essays, which may be written in either English, French, or German, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Frank E. Lemon, 3 Hanover Square, London, W., not later than December 31, 1908. Full particulars respecting the requirements of the competition may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

WITHERBY & CO., 326 High Holborn, London, announce 'The Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales,' by H. E. Forrest. This is one of the zoölogically most interesting, but hitherto neglected, parts of the British Islands. The work will form a large octavo volume of over 500 pages, with a colored map, portraits, plates depicting haunts, etc. It will be issued to subscribers at 12s. 6d. until the list reaches 500, when the price will be increased.

The same firm will also publish shortly an account, by M. J. Nicoll, of

three long voyages on the Earl of Crawford's yacht 'Valhalla.' The author, a well-known ornithologist, describes the bird and animal life of many islands seldom or never before explored. The book will be fully illustrated from photographs of life and scenery.

THE eighteenth annual meeting of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club was held at the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, January 2, 1908. The Club was never in a more flourishing condition; the membership consists of 17 Active, 68 Associate, and 37 Corresponding Members, while the 'Migration Corps' numbers 63 observers.

The officers for the ensuing year are: Wm. A. Shryoch, President; Stewardson Brown, Vice-President; Samuel Wright, Treasurer; and Chreswell J. Hunt, 225 N. 53rd St., Philadelphia, Secretary. Thos. D. Keim, 205 Radcliffe St., Bristol, Pa., is in charge of the migration work.

THE Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has just secured the Van de Pol Collection of East Indian birds, comprising about 1100 skins, from Java, Bangka, Batu Islands, Ternate, and the west coast of Sumatra. These, together with the specimens in the Tristram collection, and the Harrison and Hiller Sumatra collection, and the Porter collection from Luzon, received during the past few years, make the Academy's representation from this general region remarkably complete.

ERRATUM.—By an unfortunate lapsus, the 'erratum' on page 35 of this volume makes 'confusion worse confounded'! In Volume XXIV, plate xviii, fig. 1, accompanying Mr. A. C. Bent's paper on the 'Summer Birds of Southwestern Saskatchewan,' is wrongly indicated as 'Nests of Western Grebe'; the proper designation is 'Nests of California Gull.' The error, it is needless to say, is not the fault of the author, either on the plate or in the former erratum, but arose from a peculiar combination of circumstances, for which the editor is mainly responsible.